AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3 with the following new paragraph:

The invention has been devised with considering the above-mentioned problems. ~~An object~~ A feature of the invention is to provide an image processing method, an image processing apparatus, and an information processing apparatus capable of improving the convenience in the preparation and handling of a confidential or important document serving as a target of output stopping during the copying, printing, or facsimile transmission thereof, and still capable of maintaining a high security level.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11 with the following new paragraph:

Another ~~object~~ feature of the invention is to provide an image processing apparatus capable of clearly notifying to a user that a confidential portion (specific color portion) has intentionally not been outputted.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15 with the following new paragraph:

Yet another ~~object~~ feature of the invention is to provide an

image processing method and an image processing apparatus in which specific color information concerning a specific color is acquired, so that the specific color can be changed for each image data, so that the degree of freedom in the color used in a confidential or important portion is increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21 with the following new paragraph:

Yet another ~~object~~ feature of the invention is to provide an information processing apparatus in which image data, together with specific color information concerning a specific color, is transmitted to an image processing apparatus, so that a specific color can be specified for each image data, so that the degree of freedom in the color used in a confidential or important portion is increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 10 with the following new paragraph:

The above and further ~~objects and~~ features of the invention will more fully be apparent from the following detailed description with accompanying drawings.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 16 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an image processing apparatus according to one embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 4 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 6 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 13 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer (information processing apparatus) connected to an

image processing apparatus according to <u>an embodiment of the</u> invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 3 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 15 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer connected to an image processing apparatus according to <u>an embodiment of</u> the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 8 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 18 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus according to <u>an embodiment of</u> the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 14 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 20 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus according to <u>an embodiment of</u> the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 22 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 23 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer connected to an image processing apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 4 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 26 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer connected to an image processing apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 24 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an image processing apparatus 10 according to an embodiment of the invention. FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing a communication network to which the image processing apparatus 10 is connected. The image processing apparatus 10 comprises: an image reading section 100; a communication section 150; a color restricting section 110 connected to the image reading section 100 and the communication section 150; an image memory 180 connected to the color restricting section 110; an image processing section 130 connected to the image memory 180 and the communication section 150; an image forming section 140 connected to the image processing section 130; a controlling section 120 connected to these sections

so as to control these sections; and a storage section 170 and an operation section 160 each connected to the controlling section 120.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 3 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus 20 according to an embodiment of the invention. The image processing apparatus 20 comprises: an image reading section 100; a controlling section 220; an image processing section 230; an image forming section 140; a communication section 150; an operation section 160; and a storage section 170. The image processing apparatus 20 further comprises: a color separating section 210 connected to the image reading section 100 and the communication section 150; an encrypting section 284 connected to the color separating section 210; a second image memory 282 connected to the encrypting section 284; and a decrypting section 286 connected between the second image memory 282 and the image processing section 230. Further, a first image memory 280 is connected between the color separating section 210 and the image processing section 230. These sections are controlled by the controlling section 220. The encrypting section 284 may be integrated with the color separating section 210. The decrypting

section 286 may be integrated with the image processing section 230.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 21 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus 30 according to an embodiment of the invention. The image processing apparatus 30 comprises: an image reading section 100; a color separating section 210; a controlling section 220; an image processing section 230; an image forming section 140; a communication section 150; an operation section 160; and a storage section 170; which are similar to these of Embodiment 2. The image processing apparatus 30 further comprises a RAM (semiconductor storage device) 382 and a hard disk drive (magnetic storage device) 380 each connected between the color separating section 210 and the image processing section 230.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 59, line 9 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 13 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer (information processing apparatus) 22 connected to the above-mentioned image processing apparatus 10, 20, 30, 30a, or 40 according to an embodiment of the invention. The computer 22 comprises: a CPU (central processing unit) 31; a RAM 32; a hard

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disk drive 33; an input section 34 such as a keyboard; a display section 35 such as a monitor unit; a communication section 36 connected to a network 26; and an external storage device 37 such as a CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) drive.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 67, line 4 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 18 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus 50 according to an embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 18, the image processing apparatus 50 comprises: an image reading section 100; a communication section 150; an image memory 580 connected to the image reading section 100 and the communication section 150; a color restricting section 510 connected to the image memory (storage section) 580; an image processing section 530 connected to the color restricting section 510 and the communication section 150; an image forming section 140 connected to the image processing section 530; a controlling section 520 connected to these sections; and a storage section 570 and an operation section 160 each connected to the controlling section 520. Each section of the image processing apparatus 50 is controlled by the controlling section 520. The configuration of the image reading section 100, the image forming section 140, the communication section 150, and the operation section 160 is the same as that of Embodiment 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 74, line 23 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 20 is a block diagram showing the configuration of another image processing apparatus 70 according to an embodiment of the invention. The image processing apparatus 70 comprises: an image reading section 100; a communication section 150; an image memory 580; an image processing section 730; an image forming section 140; a controlling section 720; an operation section 160; and a storage section 570. The image processing apparatus 70 further comprises: a color separating section 710 connected to the image memory 580; a first image memory 780 connected between the color separating section 710 and the image processing section 730; an encrypting section 784 connected to the color separating section 710; a second image memory 782 connected to the encrypting section 784; and a decrypting section 786 connected between the second image memory 782 and the image processing section 730. These sections are controlled by the controlling section 720. The encrypting section 784 may be integrated with the color separating section 710. The decrypting section 786 may be integrated with the image processing section 730.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 10 with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 23 is a block diagram showing an example of configuration of a computer (information processing apparatus) 22 connected to the above-mentioned image processing apparatus 50, 70, 80, or 90 according to an embodiment of the invention. This configuration is similar to that of the computer 22 of FIG. 13.